

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

WALTER M. DICKIE, M.D., Director

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Weekly Bulletin



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GUY P. JONES  
EDITOR

## *Chronic Diseases in the United States*

The Division of Public Health Methods, National Institute of Health, U. S. Public Health Service, Washington, has issued a preliminary report on the national health survey of 1935-36 covering the magnitude of the chronic disease problem in the United States. The report is based upon a house-to-house canvass of 800,000 families, including 2,800,000 persons in 83 cities and 23 rural areas in 19 states. It is estimated that 23,000,000 persons, or more than one person in six in the United States has some chronic disease, orthopedic impairment or serious defect of hearing or vision. These disorders cause an annual loss from work or other usual pursuits of almost a billion days, and a minimum of 1,500,000 persons are disabled for such long periods of time, 12 months or more, that they may be considered permanent invalids.

The mortality reports of the Bureau of the Census show that the leading causes of death in this country are heart disease, cancer, arteriosclerosis and high blood pressure, and nephritis. This survey shows that the most prevalent chronic diseases are rheumatism, heart disease, arteriosclerosis and high blood pressure, and asthma. The outstanding cause of disability is nervous mental diseases, with rheumatism second, heart disease third, followed by tuberculosis, arteriosclerosis and high blood pressure. It is determined that a given chronic disease may not be of equal

significance in terms of prevalence, disability and mortality. Rheumatism, although of first importance in prevalence and second in disability, ranks fourteenth among chronic diseases as a cause of death. Tuberculosis is of major significance as a cause both of disability and of death, but ranks fifteenth in prevalence. Heart disease, arteriosclerosis and high blood pressure are among the first five causes in terms of prevalence, disability and mortality.

The survey shows that half of the persons surveyed for whom chronic disease or impairments were reported were under 45 years of age and more than 70 per cent of these persons were under 55 years of age. More than half of the persons permanently disabled, and almost 30 per cent of those who died from chronic disease were under 55 years of age.

### **TULAREMIA**

A case in Los Angeles County was investigated by the State Department of Public Health. The patient was an Olympic skater, age 21, who accidentally got cigarette ashes in his right eye on June 21 while on his ranch, where he hunted wild rabbits. This was followed by swelling and conjunctivitis. Later he became acutely ill and had an enlargement of the parotid and cervical glands on the right side. He expired July 15. He had an agglutination reaction for tularemia in a low dilution.



**HIGHWAY EATING PLACES INSPECTED**

Highway eating places in small towns of Riverside and Kern counties were inspected during July as well as service stations and eating places along U. S. Highway 101 from Ventura city limits to Los Angeles County boundary line, also along Highway 178 from Bakersfield to Isabella, including the unincorporated towns of Kernville, Glenville and Woody. The following table indicates the results achieved from these inspections:

**MISCELLANEOUS INSPECTIONS**

Eating places inspected-----	60
Conditions satisfactory -----	36
Minor defects -----	20
Insanitary conditions -----	3
Service stations inspected-----	21
Conditions satisfactory -----	12
Minor defects -----	7
Insanitary conditions -----	2

**SUMMARY**

Total number of eating places inspected---	152
Conditions satisfactory -----	78
Minor defects -----	60
Insanitary conditions -----	14
Total number of service stations inspected--	51
Conditions satisfactory -----	27
Minor defects -----	19
Insanitary conditions -----	5

**EGG PRODUCTS INSPECTED**

Shipments of domestic frozen egg products amounting to more than 376,000 pounds and shipments of dried egg products amounting to more than 16,000 pounds were received in southern California during July. All of these shipments were checked and examinations showed them to be satisfactory. In northern California more than 2400 pounds of decomposed frozen egg meats were destroyed during July. Regular inspections were made at all local egg breaking plants. The season of high production has passed and activities are slowing down somewhat in these establishments.

Cooperation was given to both local and federal authorities in checking up on the activities of dealers who handle eggs of questionable quality.

**WINERY INSPECTION**

At this season of the year, when wineries clean their establishments preparatory to receiving grapes for the coming vintage, a check of all such establishments is necessary. In most wineries there have been decided improvements in the quality of wines held in storage. Only an occasional tank of substandard wine is now encountered.

**THOMAS JEFFERSON ON VACCINATION**

An historical item relative to the discovery of vaccination against smallpox, By Edward Jenner, is shown in a letter of appreciation which Thomas Jefferson addressed to him from Monticello in 1806 which reads as follows:

Monticello, Virginia  
May 14, 1806.

Sir: I have received a copy of the evidence at large, respecting the discovery of the vaccine inoculation, which you have been pleased to send me, and for which I return you many thanks. Having been among the early converts of this part of the globe to its efficacy I took an early part in recommending it to my countrymen. I avail myself of this occasion to render you my portion of the tribute and gratitude due you from the whole human family. Medicine has never before produced any single improvement of such utility. Harvey's discovery of the circulation of the blood was a beautiful addition to our knowledge of the ancient economy; but on a review of the practice of medicine before and since that epoch, I do not see any great amelioration which has been derived from that discovery. You have erased from the calendar of human affliction one of its greatest. Yours is the comfortable reflection that mankind can never forget that you have lived; future nations will know by history only that the loathsome smallpox has existed, and by you has been extirpated. Accept the most fervent wishes for your health and happiness, and assurance of the greatest respect and consideration.

TH. JEFFERSON.

**TOMATO SEASON OPENS**

The canning of tomatoes started in a few canneries the latter part of July. Due to favorable growing conditions the quality of market tomatoes used for the early pack was very good. There has been a change in market varieties and a more desirable variety is now being used. The majority of the tomato canners will not begin operations before August.

The Bureau of Cannery Inspection has supervision over the inspection and examination of raw tomatoes at the cannery receiving platforms and shipping stations as well as during the canning process in the plants. This is in accordance with the provisions of the Cannery Inspection Act, Pure Foods Act and Food Sanitation Act.



**BUREAU OF VENEREAL DISEASES IS ACTIVE**

More than 18,000 copies of pamphlets pertaining to venereal diseases and their control were distributed by the Bureau of Venereal Diseases during July. More than 15,000 report forms were distributed to clinics and to health officers for distribution to local physicians.

Addresses upon venereal disease subjects were given before a service club, summer school, church and a people's forum, to audiences totaling almost 1000 people.

Plans were formulated for a series of lectures before groups of medical men in northern counties. Purpose of these lectures is to provide the latest authoritative information pertaining to proper treatment.

Plans were also made for the provision of a study course in venereal diseases for women's clubs; the preparation of a State Fair exhibit, and for publicity in the newspapers of this state.

The posting of enamel signs pertaining to venereal diseases was continued, county authorities having been requested to post such signs in all county buildings.

**Distribution of Drugs**

During July 20,000 ampules of drugs for the treatment of syphilis were distributed to health officers, clinics and private physicians. Of these, 1682 ampules were distributed to private physicians whose patients were unable to pay for same. Most of the drugs were used at public clinics.

**Activities in Clinics**

During June there were 50,315 clinic visits reported to the bureau. Of these, 32,893 were syphilis patients and 11,284 sufferers from gonorrhea. The average monthly clinic visits in 1937 was 39,309. Attendance has increased enormously during 1938.

**Venereal Disease Training Schools**

Nine trainees were appointed and admitted to courses of instruction in venereal disease control at the University of California School of Public Health which opened July 5th.

**Laboratory Activities**

The State Relief Administration Wassermann testing program continued during July. The reports indicated 84 per cent negatives, 13 per cent positives and 3 per cent inconclusive.

Diagnostic tests for venereal diseases performed at the state laboratory during July were as follows:

Gonococcus smears.....	377
Wassermann tests.....	2,740
Kahn tests.....	2,337
Kline tests.....	9,389

**PSITTACOSIS CONTROL**

In southern California 38 shell parrakeet aviaries were inspected during July and 211 interstate shipments were checked and approved. These shipments involved 2697 shell parrakeets and 194 larger psittacine birds.

During the month 678 shell parrakeets from one aviary and four dealers were collected and submitted to the laboratory for examination. These tests have not been completed.

However, 4 of the 13 aviaries tested during June have been reported as free from psittacosis and 2 were found infected with psittacosis. In the lot of birds received from Ohio, in which psittacosis was proven, 7 aviaries were involved. The 2 aviaries proven positive during the month represented two of the seven sources of birds in the Ohio group. All of the remaining birds at those aviaries and in Los Angeles pet shops have been destroyed. The investigation is being continued to determine the source of infection in these approved aviaries.

**TYPHOID FEVER**

At the request of local health officers several groups of typhoid fever cases were investigated by the Bureau of Epidemiology during July. One group of five cases in Contra Costa County and another of three cases proved to be contact cases. The first case in one group was probably due to eating raw clams. A group of five cases occurred in one family in Kings County. The family lived in laborer and squatters' camps where sanitary conditions were not good. The first two cases were unrecognized until late and were undoubtedly the source of infection of the remaining three cases. Other cases of typhoid fever in Alameda, Placer, Yuba, Shasta and San Mateo counties were investigated.

**PURE DRUGS ACT**

Inspections of patent medicine manufacturers' establishments were made during July. One druggist who advertised venereal disease remedies and asthma and whooping cough cures, was referred to the district attorney for action. A Chinese importer of patent medicine who labeled products received from the Orient as opium remedy, syphilis remedy, etc., was also referred to the district attorney. The passage of the new United States Foods, Drugs and Cosmetics Law has stimulated a definite interest in cosmetics and their control.



## MORBIDITY

Complete Reports for Following Diseases for Week Ending  
August 27, 1938

## Chickenpox

36 cases: Alameda 1, Berkeley 3, Livermore 1, Fresno County 3, Selma 1, Los Angeles County 4, Alhambra 2, Los Angeles 3, Pomona 1, Santa Monica 1, Lynwood 1, Sacramento 1, San Francisco 9, Santa Barbara County 1, Santa Barbara 1, Vallejo 1, Sacramento County 2.

## Diphtheria

15 cases: Fresno County 1, Fresno 1, Humboldt County 1, Los Angeles County 2, Los Angeles 6, Orange County 1, San Jose 1, Tulare County 1, Exeter 1.

## German Measles

15 cases: Berkeley 2, Huntington Park 1, Long Beach 2, Los Angeles 4, Pasadena 1, Santa Ana 2, Upland 1, San Diego County 1, San Francisco 1.

## Influenza

12 cases: Berkeley 1, Burbank 1, Glendale 1, Long Beach 2, Los Angeles 6, San Francisco 1.

## Malaria

39 cases: Butte County 1, Kern County 2, La Verne 1, San Joaquin County 4, Tulare County 15, Yolo County 10, Winters 1, Yuba County 5.

## Measles

112 cases: Berkeley 2, Livermore 1, Fresno County 1, Los Angeles County 6, Burbank 1, Glendale 1, Hermosa 2, La Verne 1, Los Angeles 10, Pasadena 3, Pomona 1, San Fernando 3, Hawthorne 1, Signal Hill 1, Maywood 3, Napa County 1, Anaheim 1, Orange 1, Riverside 1, Sacramento 3, Redlands 1, San Diego County 2, Oceanside 6, San Diego 8, San Francisco 10, Stockton 1, Menlo Park 1, Santa Barbara 1, San Jose 30, Tehama County 1, Tulare County 1, Fillmore 1, Ventura 5.

## Mumps

127 cases: Alameda County 8, Alameda 1, Berkeley 23, Livermore 2, Contra Costa County 6, Pittsburg 1, Fresno 3, Kern County 3, Los Angeles County 9, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 10, Santa Monica 1, Marin County 1, San Anselmo 1, Grass Valley 1, Orange County 1, Tustin 4, Sacramento 6, San Bernardino 1, San Diego County 2, La Mesa 1, San Diego 12, San Francisco 11, San Joaquin County 1, Stockton 2, Burlingame 1, San Mateo 1, Santa Barbara County 2, Santa Barbara 1, Santa Clara County 3, San Jose 3, Trinity County 2, Davis 1, Woodland 1.

## Pneumonia (Lobar)

21 cases: Los Angeles County 5, El Monte 1, Glendale 1, Long Beach 3, Los Angeles 5, Monrovia 1, Santa Monica 1, Soledad 1, Orange County 1, Colfax 1, Sacramento 1.

## Scarlet Fever

69 cases: Berkeley 1, Amador County 1, Humboldt County 2, Kern County 2, Bakersfield 1, Los Angeles County 10, Long Beach 3, Los Angeles 17, Santa Monica 2, Lynwood 1, South Gate 1, Marin County 3, Atwater 1, Santa Ana 1, Placentia 1, Sacramento County 1, Sacramento 1, San Bernardino 1, San Francisco 6, San Joaquin County 2, Santa Barbara 1, Santa Clara County 1, Palo Alto 1, San Jose 1, Vallejo 1, Trinity County 1, Fillmore 1, Santa Paula 1, Yolo County 2, Winters 1.

## Smallpox

2 cases: Sacramento County 1, Tulare County 1.

## Typhoid Fever

9 cases: Pittsburg 1, Los Angeles 3, Mariposa County 2, San Diego County 1, California 2.\*

## Whooping Cough

173 cases: Alameda County 19, Berkeley 23, San Leandro 2, El Cerrito 1, Fresno County 1, Fresno 3, Los Angeles County 27, Alhambra 2, Culver City 1, Long Beach 4, Los Angeles 6, Pasadena 2, Pomona 1, Whittier 2, South Gate 6, Monterey Park 1, Merced County 1, Monterey County 3, Salinas 5, Grass Valley 1, Santa Ana 2, Colfax 2, Sacramento 5, National City 2, Oceanside 1, San Diego 10, San Francisco 14, Stockton 4, San Mateo County 2, Santa Barbara 2, Palo Alto 1, San Jose 2, Santa Cruz 3, Solano County 4, Tulare County 3, Ventura County 3, Ojai 1, Woodland 1.

## Meningitis (Epidemic)

2 cases: Nevada County 1, Tulare County 1.

\* Cases charged to "California" represent patients ill before entering the state or those who contracted their illness traveling about the state throughout the incubation period of the disease. These cases are not chargeable to any one location.

## Dysentery (Amoebic)

One case: Ventura.

## Dysentery (Bacillary)

24 cases: Alameda County 4, San Francisco 2, Sonoma County 12, Tulare County 1, Marysville 5.

## Pellagra

6 cases: Berkeley 1, Los Angeles County 1, Huntington Park 1, Sonoma County 2, Ventura County 1.

## Polliomyelitis

7 cases: Kern County 4, San Mateo 1, Santa Barbara 2.

## Tetanus

4 cases: Los Angeles 1, Santa Clara County 1, San Jose 1, Sonoma County 1.

## Trachoma

14 cases: Alpine County 7, Kern County 3, Los Angeles County 2, Auburn 1, Riverside County 1.

## Encephalitis (Epidemic)

2 cases: Fresno County.

## Paratyphoid Fever

One case: Redondo.

## Trichinosis

One case: Hayward.

## Food Poisoning

8 cases: San Francisco.

## Undulant Fever

7 cases: Los Angeles 2, Hawthorne 1, San Diego County 1, Santa Clara County 1, Sonoma County 1, Woodland 1.

## Tularemia

One case: San Jose.

## Coccidioides Granuloma

2 cases: Kern County 1, Sacramento 1.

## Rabies (Animal)

23 cases: Fresno 1, Kern County 2, Los Angeles County 4, Los Angeles 2, Pomona 1, Bell 1, San Joaquin County 3, Santa Maria 1, Santa Clara County 6, Santa Clara 1, Stanislaus County 1.

I hope that here in America more and more the ideal of the well-trained and vigorous body will be maintained neck and neck with that of the well-trained and vigorous mind, as the two coequal halves of the higher education for men and women alike. The strength of the British Empire lies in the strength of character of the individual Englishman taken all alone by himself. And that strength, I am persuaded, is perennially nourished and kept up by nothing so much as by the national worship, in which all classes meet, of athletic outdoor life and sport.—William James (1890).

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